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San Carlos, California 94070 USA

January 21, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

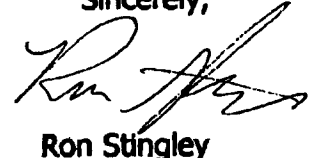
Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

This is to give my support to the settlement between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. I did not support this suit against Microsoft in the first place, and I am disturbed by the tendency of government to interfere in business. If there is wrongdoing, there is an obvious need, but this was a case of competition. Microsoft was just one of numerous tech firms out there producing a product. In this instance, Bill Gates put out a better product, at a lower price. He could have charged much more, but didn't. Bill Gates, through Microsoft, streamlined computer programs into more useable formats, increased compatibility of various computer software programs, and allowed all of us to join the computer revolution. The other firms could not keep up; hence, they sought to have a legal edge. The Justice Department, under the previous administration, fell right into line. We are threatening the tenet of free enterprise if we constantly interfere in business. Some firms succeed. Others do not. This is the way it is in life with all things. Government cannot come in and decide who does or does not succeed.

Further, Microsoft has given away a great deal. Microsoft has agreed to submit to a committee to monitor settlement adherence; Microsoft has further agreed to license its Windows operating system products to the 20 largest computer makers on equal terms; and Microsoft has agreed to give computer makers more accessibility to make Windows so that it promotes non-Microsoft software programs. This is a lot more than any other firm would do.

Put this issue behind us. Any further action will only harm both our economy and our country.

Sincerely,



Ron Stingley